that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, and

placing said arms on said support part such that said support part is disposed in said transverse holes of said two arms and at least one arm is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and tilting said at least one movable arm with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said at least one movable arm.

P1 Amended

--2. (Ten Times Amended) A device for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, said device comprising:

a <u>cylindrical</u> support part [which is cylindrical all along], and

two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object,

said support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, and

wherein said object may be held by said device by positioning said object between said arms and in contact with said elastic buffer, and tilting said at least one movable arm with respect to said support part such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse of said at hole least one movable arm.

P2 SJO 57

16. (Five Times Amended) A method for holding an object by clamping the object while preventing damage thereto, and which utilizes a device including a <u>cylindrical</u> support part [which is cylindrical all along] and two arms, each arm including a transverse hole and at least one of these arms carrying an elastic buffer secured thereto, said buffer having a contact face for contacting said object and having under its contact face a thickness large enough so that said buffer acts as a compression spring when said buffer contacts said object, and being resilient enough such that said contact face can flex and pivot to substantially conform to the surface of said object, said

support part being disposed within said transverse holes of said arms such that at least one of said arms is movable along said support part, and said buffer is disposed at a distance from said support part with its contact face approximately at a right angle to said support part, said method comprising the steps of:

positioning said object between said arms:

sliding said at least one movable arm along said support part so as to apply the contact face of [applying] said elastic buffer against a respective surface of said object, manually exerting pressure on the backs of said arms [to clamp said object between said arms] in direction of said object. The force exerted by fingers or hand palms on said backs is more or less transmitted by translation against said object. This object reacts and opposes a resistance, which rises with the exerted pressure and

stopping the exertion of pressure when [said at least one movable arm is tilted] hands feel enough resistance. Said at least one movable arm is then repulsed by said object. As a result, it tilts with respect to said support part, such that a frictional force is created between said support part and an interior surface of the transverse hole of said arm, thereby locking said arm in place with respect to said support part.